

CITY OF WASHINGTON, FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 4, 1853.

CONGRESSIONAL.

SPEECH OF HON. TRUMAN SMITH, OF CONNECTICUT.

Delivered in the Senate, February 17, 1853; on the bill for the protection of the emigrant route, and a telegraphic line, and for an overland mail, between the Missouri river and the settlements in California and Oregon.

Mr. SMITH said: Mr. President, I do not know but that this subject has already been sufficiently discussed to enlighten the deliberations of the Senate, and to conduct us to such result as the public interest may require. I am, therefore, content to leave the subject to the Senate, and to leave it to the Senate to determine whether it is to be passed, and if so, in what form.

Mr. GWIN. Agreed: let us have a vote.

Mr. COOPER. I desire to address the Senate on the subject, and cannot consent to forego the privileges of the floor.

Several Senators, to Mr. SMITH. Go on! go on!

Mr. SMITH. I must, then, throw myself on the indulgence of the Senate in submitting a few remarks, which I trust will be accorded to me, for no other reason, than in consideration of the fact that I seldom obtrude myself on the Senate, and that I am, therefore, a stranger to the members of the Senate.

Without intending any disrespect to the Senator, I have to say I consider his proposition a mere evasion of the question before us. I think it would be better to reject the bill at once than to adopt a measure so utterly defective in its construction, and so utterly devoid of merit. Without intending any disrespect to the Senator, I have to say I consider his proposition a mere evasion of the question before us.

Without dwelling any further on the substitute which has been offered by the honorable and very worthy Senator from Pennsylvania, I proceed to say that there are two objections to the bill, one of which is, that it is not a bill for the construction of a road. The first is to make it exclusively a government work, to be executed by the national executive, in conformity with the directions of Congress, and at the proper cost of the national treasury.

It is, I believe, a bill for the construction of a road, and not a bill for the construction of a telegraphic line, and not a bill for the construction of an overland mail. It is, I believe, a bill for the construction of a road, and not a bill for the construction of a telegraphic line, and not a bill for the construction of an overland mail.

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